

Applicant: Stewart, Christopher
Serial No.: 10/723,617
Page 8

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. The attached sheets which include Figures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Applicant: Stewart, Christopher
Serial No.: 10/723,617
Page 9

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Initially, the Examiner objected to the specification regarding the omission of continuation data between the title of the invention and the first line of the specification. As set forth above under the Amendments to the Specification, Applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of this objection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The Examiner also objected to claim 2 regarding the use of the phrase "capable of." As noted above, Applicant has amended claim 2 to address the Examiner's comment. Applicant, therefore, requests the withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1 through 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,936,222 to Korsunsky, et al. The Office Action states that Korsunsky discloses a smart card reader for usage with a smart card that includes a receptacle as shown in Figure 1, at least one placement tab, items 46 and 48, that extend into the receptacle in order to secure the placement of a smart card and a plurality of contact items 22 and 23, which contact a smart chip within a smart card. The Office Action further states that Korsunsky discloses a smart card reader wherein the plurality of contacts is capable of resiliently contacting a smart chip and discloses a smart card reader which includes a contact plate and a plurality of electrical leads leading from said contact plate. The Office Action provides Korsunsky as prior art to support this 102 rejection of claims 1 through 3.

Korsunsky relates to a smart card reader and seeks to provide improved reliability, and prevent premature wear on the contacts through excessive wiping. Korsunsky describes a smart

Applicant: Stewart, Christopher
Serial No.: 10/723,617
Page 10

card reader having a plurality of contacts disposed in a contact receiving area of a base. Figure 1 of Korsunsky shows a smart card reader 10 having an insulative base 12 and a cover 14 mounted thereon. The smart card reader also includes a card insertion opening 18 provided along a mating face 16 which has standard lead in surfaces 24, 26 which open into a card receiving area 20. The Office Action states that the card insertion opening 18 equates to the receptacle as recited in claim 1. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite the subject matter of the invention of the present application. Note that claim 1 recites an open receptacle that includes one open side, a bottom surface, a first lateral wall, a second lateral wall and a longitudinal wall. In contrast, Korsunsky merely discloses an insertion slot or an insertion opening 18, i.e., slot, that is used for the insertion of the smart card into the enclosed smart card reader of Korsunsky. The card insertion slot does not equate to an open receptacle as now recited in claim 1. The open receptacle as recited in claim 1 allows a user to place the smart card into the smart card reader of the present invention without insertion through a slot as disclosed in Korsunsky. The open receptacle as recited in claim 1 allows a user to just simply place the smart card into the reader without any horizontal obstruction and the recited placement tabs secures the smart card in place for reading.

Clearly, based upon the foregoing, the smart card reader of Korsunsky does not equate to the card reader as recited in claim 1. Specifically, the open receptacle of claim 1 does not equate to the card insertion opening 18 of Korsunsky. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that Korsunsky simply does not disclose each and every element of claim 1 and, therefore, cannot anticipate claim 1 or dependant claims 2 and 3. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection based on the foregoing.

Claims 4 through 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,729,000 to Sugimoto. The Office Action states that Sugimoto discloses an IC card

Applicant: Stewart, Christopher
Serial No.: 10/723,617
Page 11

reader that includes a receptacle where the receptacle includes one open side 22, a receptacle lip shown in Figure 3, a plurality of contacts as shown in card connector 31 in Figure 2 and, therefore, discloses the subject matter of claim 4. The Office Action also states that Sugimoto includes the subject matter recited in claim 5 and discloses a receptacle lip that resiliently maintains the smart card in contact with the plurality of contacts. The Office Action also states that method of claim 6 is essentially the same scope of apparatus claim 4 and, therefore, Sugimoto also discloses the subject matter of claim 6.

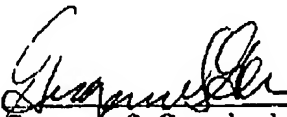
Sugimoto discusses an IC card reader that includes a lower cover that forms the wall of an apparatus and an upper cover to be installed on the lower cover and a circuit board to be mounted on the upper cover. The Office Action apparently equates the lower cover 10 and upper cover 20 to the open receptacle that is recited in claim 4. Initially, claim 4 now recites an open receptacle, therefore, the lower cover 10 and upper cover 20 simply cannot equate to the open receptacle as recited in claim 4. The Examiner apparently equated the insertion slit 22 of Sugimoto to the open receptacle of claim 4. As now recited, claim 4 includes a receptacle lip that extends over a portion of an edge of the open receptacle that simply does not equate to the open slit of Sugimoto. Furthermore, claim 4 recites a receptacle lip that extends over a lateral side of the receptacle and a portion to a longitudinal side of the receptacle. The insertion slit 22 as shown in Sugimoto clearly does not have a lateral side and two adjoining longitudinal sides in order to form the receptacle. Sugimoto just merely shows an open slit for insertion into an enclosed card reader. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Sugimoto simply does not disclose each and every element of amended claim 4. Also, nor does Sugimoto disclose each and every element of the method of claim or dependant claim 5. Applicant, therefore, requests withdrawal of this rejection based upon the foregoing.

Applicant: Stewart, Christopher
Serial No.: 10/723,617
Page 12

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgann S. Grunebach
Reg. No. 33,179

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
RE/R11/A109
P. O. Box 956
El Segundo CA 90245

Telephone No. (310) 964-4615

March 15, 2005